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### SECTION XXIV.

### PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

#### § 1. Introductory.

1. General.—Charity and charitable effort in Australia may be classified under three headings, viz.:—(a) State; (b) public; (c) private. To the first belong all institutions wholly provided for by the State, such as the principal lunatic asylums in the various States, the Government hospitals in Western Australia and the Government asylums for infirm in New South Wales. The second class includes public institutions of two kinds, viz.:—(i.) Institutions partially subsidised by the State or State endowed, but receiving also private aid, and (ii.) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the Melbourne and other large metropolitan hospitals. In the latter are included institutions established and endowed by individuals for the benefit of the needy generally. All charitable movements of a private or special character are included in the third group.

A more or less accurate statistical account is possible in classes (a) and (b), but in regard to (c) complete tabulation is, for obvious reasons, impossible. Moreover, public response to special appeals, and summary relief in kind, cannot be statistically recorded. Hospitals, orphanages, homes, benevolent asylums, etc., naturally attract the largest share of charitable aid. There are, nevertheless, numerous other and minor charities which mark the course and measure the amount of a considerable volume of private beneficence. In institutions which receive Government aid, management and finance are usually relegated to executive bodies, ordinarily elected on a democratic basis.

The distribution of wealth in the Australian Commonwealth, and the generally favourable conditions, as regards scope for the exercise of natural ability, operate to prevent the development of a permanent pauper class, and at the same time lessen in a dual way the burden of charity. This latter is brought about by the increase, on the one hand, of the number of people whose prosperity enables them to relieve the indigent and unfortunate, and by the reduction, on the other, of the number who need assistance. Enactments of State Legislatures have decreed short hours and a liberal holiday allowance for large numbers of persons engaged in industrial and other pursuits, and, even in occupations not covered by Act of Parliament, the general conditions of employment often provide a considerable amount of leisure. This, coupled with an equable climate, enables the community to spend much of its time in the open air, with resultant advantages to its physique and general health. No poor-rate is levied in Australia, and Government aid without return is required only for the aged and disabled. Moreover, although Old Age Pensions are paid by the Commonwealth, the payments are looked upon rather in the light of a citizen's right than as a charity. Reference to the Old Age Pensions will be found in § 3, Miscellaneous, chap. xxxi.

To meet temporary conditions, or rather, what ought to be temporary conditions, various relief works have been started from time to time, in which the able-bodied who may be forced to seek official relief are required to make some return for the assistance afforded. In the past, attempts to relieve the unemployed have led to large expenditures, but at the present time the entire scheme of such relief is on an altogether more satisfactory footing.

In each of the States there are Government asylums for the care of the insane, and the condition of these unfortunates has been steadily ameliorated by the general advance in psychiatry.

Young children deprived of parental training and control are cared for and educated in "orphanages" and "industrial schools," and those who have been guilty of some specific offence, or who are beyond adequate parental control, are committed to "reformatories."

In common with other civilised communities, relief funds have from time to time been organised for famine-stricken territories (e.g., China, India, etc.), or for places where plague, flood, fire, or earthquake has shewn the need of urgent relief. Statistical information in regard to this form of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the Daily Press frequently accepts the duties of collectorship in charity appeals.

2. Charity Reforms.—The evident overlapping of charitable effort has on various occasions led to discussion regarding methods of collection and distribution of aid, and has, moreover, given rise to a desire for improved administration. In this connection, an important conference of representatives of charitable associations was held in Melbourne in September, 1907, with the object of systematically digesting the experiences of the committees of management of the various hospitals and kindred institutions. These obtain their revenue from State and municipal subsidies, from proceeds of concerts, entertainments, etc., from organised public collection, from private contributions and bequests, and from patients. Some of the institutions also have paid or honorary collectors. As a result of the investigations of this Conference, it was found (a) that institutions of a similar character were competing with each other; (b) that public aid was not effectively dispensed; (c) that public eleemosynary impulse was prejudiced by the circumstance that institutions primarily intended for the poor and needy were being utilised by people who could afford to pay for private relief, particularly in regard to medical or surgical treatment. One important result of this Conference was the formation of societies to prevent overlapping.

Other proposed reforms aim at ascertaining the causes of poverty and crime, and finding the necessary palliative. Increased provision of better houses and workrooms and improved sanitation are advocated, together with more stringent legislative measures to enforce cleanliness and healthy modes of life. In addition, further Factories Legislation, Pure Food and Health Acts, and provisions for safeguarding dangerous machinery and permitting only competent persons to be employed thereon, are also advocated.

3. Difficulties of General Tabulation.—Differences in the organisation of charities prevent uniform tabulation of statistics for all the States, but certain of the larger features of the statistics of benevolence have been combined for the whole Commonwealth. Combinations for the whole of Australia for the five years ended 1909 are given for hospitals, benevolent asylums, orphanages, and hospitals for the insane. Satisfactory tabulation for other charities is not yet possible. Where the combination has been for dissimilar periods the nearest years have been taken, and in some cases, where information has not been forthcoming, figures for the previous year have been repeated.—As a result of the effort to standardise the information, emendations have been made in the figures published in the preceding Year Books, whereby it is believed a more satisfactory basis of comparison has been established.

## § 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

1. Hospitals.—Most of the State capitals have several large and well-equipped hospitals, and there is at least one in every important town. In large centres there are hospitals for consumptives, women, children, infectious diseases, incurables, etc. The number of hospitals in Australia, with the admissions, patients treated, deaths, and expenditure, are shewn in the following table. The "special" hospitals are included in the returns for 1905 and 1906, but in 1907, 1908, and 1909 only general hospitals are tabulated. In 1909, the figures for assisted hospitals in Western Australia are available for the first time.

HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1905 to 1909.

Particulars.		1905. 1906.		1907.	1908.	1909.	
Number of institutions			308	313	304	312	337
Number of beds			11,778	12,108	11,463	12,057	11,384
Admissions during year		[	94,117	99,308	98,031	107,292	89,650
Indoor patients treated			101,200	106,488	104,483	114,668	96,748
Deaths	•••		7,476	7,627	8,005	8,560	6,967
Expenditure		£	602,394	612,628	639,002	758,993	775,811

In addition to those admitted to the institutions there are large numbers of outpatients. The exact number of these cannot be given, but a rough estimate of distinct cases for 1909 places the total at about 280,000.

Fuller details of hospital statistics are given for 1909 in the table below, the States of the Commonwealth being shewn separately:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION OF HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1909.

Par	ticular	3.		N.S.W.*	Victoria.	Q'land,	S.A.	W.A.†	Tas.	Cwlth.
Number of E Government Other				3 136	47	2 75	8 5	48	} 13	} 337
Total	•••	•••	•	139	47	77	13	48	13	337
Medical Staf Males Females	f—  			492	60.00	155 10	78 4	46	en en	771   17
Total			•••	495	§	165	82	46	§	788
Nursing Stat	ff & Att	endar	ıts							
Males Females		 		100 1,229	24 593	125 567	53 318	60 280	§ §	362¶ 2,987¶
Total				1,329	**617	692	371	340	§	**3,349¶
Accommoda: Number of Capacity in Number of Cubic feet	dormit cubic beds	feet	etc. 	800 5,633,494 4,616 1,220	432 4,283,306 3,202 1,338	491 3,133,503 2,532 1,238	99 1,215,703 812 1,497	142 1,223,357 1,143 1,070	111 694,417 325 2,137	2,075 16,183,780 12,630 1,281

<sup>\*</sup> Exclusive of homes for consumptives, and women's hospitals doing general as well as maternity work. † Inclusive of assisted hospitals. § Information not available. || Exclusive of Victoria and Tasmania. || Exclusive of Tasmania. | \*\* Exclusive of 1060 paid staff: sexes not stated.

# GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN THE COMMON-WEALTH, 1909.

Pa	rticul	lars.			N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwlth.
Indoor Relief: Di	stinct	Person	s Treat	ed—							
Males	•••	•••	•••	•	27,258	14,928	15,878	3,600	5,949	2,617	70,23
Females	•••	•••	•••	•••	23,283	10,262	7,662	2,662	2,915	1,914	48,69
Total				•••	50,541	25,190	23,540	6,262	8,864	4,531	118,92
Inmates at beginn	ing o	f Year-									·
Males		•••			1,546	1,356	917	277	438	176	4,71
Females	•••	•••	•••	•	1,264	853	. 446	189	191	118	3,06
Total					2,810	2,209	1,363	466	629	294	7,77
	•••					\					\ <u> </u>
Admissions & Re-					05 710	13,572	14,961	3.686	5,511	2,692	66,13
Males Females	•••	•••	•••		25,712 22,019	9,409	7,216	2,590	2,724	2,010	45,96
remates	•••	•••	•••	•••	22,013	-,,,,,,		2,000		2,010	
Total					47,731	22,981	22,177	6,276	8,235	4,702	112,10
Discharges—Reco	vered	:				<b></b>	i		l		
Males		•••			18,039	11,369	13,486	2,179	2,899	2,489	50,46
Females		•••	•••	•••	17,060	8,177	6,565	1,467	1,406	1,793	36,46
Total			•••	•••	35,099	‡19,546	‡20,051	3,646	4,305	<b>‡</b> 4,282	86,92
Relieved:						ļ <del></del>					ļ
Males				•••	4,693	1 +	+	836	2,021	Ì ŧ	§7.55
Females					3,207	l <del>i</del>	+	655	1.036	l <del>i</del>	\$4.89
						<b></b> _					
Total					7,900	+	†	1,491	3,057	+	§12,44
Unrelieved:							ļ — —				
Males		•••	•••		698	161	285	283	132	37	1,59
Females	•••	•••	•••	•••	511	133	158	232	65	38	1,13
0									ļ		
Total			•••		1,209	294	443	515	197	75	2,73
Not stated:										ļ	
Males	•••				l	302	125	9	60	57	55
Females	•••	•••		•••		129	23	6	34	55	24
						<del></del>			<del>-</del>		
Total	•••	•••	•••	•••		431	148	15	94	112	80
Deaths—									<del> </del>		J
Males			<b>:</b>		2,056	1,694	1,006	348	484	198	5,78
Females	•••	•••	•••	•••	1,138	896	422	213	197	162	3,02
m . 1											
Total	•••	•••	···· .	•••	3,194	2,590	1,428	561	681	. 360	8,81
Inmates at End o						1 000					1
Malcs Females	•••	•••	•••	•••	1,772	1,323 823	976	308 206	353	170	4,90
remates	•••		•••	•••	1,367	623	494	206	177	139	3,20
Total	•••		•••		3,139	2,146	1,470	514	530	309	8,10
Average Daily Nu	mber	Resider	ıt—				i			]	
Males					1,524	4	¶	299	427	189	•
Females	•••		•••	•••	1,295	Ť	4	233	200	141	🖷
Total				•••	2,819	2,241	1,469	532	627	330	8,018

<sup>\*</sup> Inclusive of homes for consumptives, women's hospitals doing general as well as maternity work, and maternity homes. † Included in recovered. † Including relieved. § Cases relieved are included in those recovered, in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania. ¶ Information not available.

The revenue and expenditure of the institutions were as follows:-

#### GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1909.

Particulars.		N.S.W.*	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwlth.
Revenue— Fees of patients, etc. Government grants Other		£ 41,159 143,966 111,406	£ 19,392 58,692 105,452	£ 15,400 72,152 57,041	£ 3,373 39,157 11,715	£ 11,116 62,599 13,867	£ 8,398 17,195 3,208	£ 98,838 393,761 302,690
Total	5	296,531	183,536	144,593	54,245	87,582	28,801	795,289
Expenditure— Salaries Maintenance Other	1	99,695 ) 123,275 ) 66,991	159,355 30,251	55,754† 72,739 18,048‡	16,458 27,469 20,538§	86,086	20,791 8,337	805,787
Total	2	289,961	189,606	146,541	64,465	86,086	29,128	805,787

- \* Exclusive of hospitals for convalescents and consumptives, and maternity homes, in 1907; but including homes for consumptives in 1908. † Including rent.  $\ddagger$  Including administration. § Including buildings, £19,306.
- 2. Hospitals for General and Special Cases.—The tables here given refer to general hospitals. In addition there are hospitals for "specials," (such as women's, children's, and infectious diseases hospitals), and institutions nearly allied to hospitals (such as consumptive sanatoria). In the first and second numbers of the Commonwealth Year Book, these were tabulated with general hospitals. Where the institutions carry on general hospital relief, they are still included with those establishments.
- (i.) New South Wales. A feature of the last decade has been the establishment of hospitals in many country towns of growing importance. In 1898, there were 13 metropolitan and 97 country hospitals; in 1909 these had increased to 21 and 120. A government hospital is established at Little Bay. There are four women's and one children's hospitals in the metropolis. Other leading institutions are the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital, Dental Hospital, Home for Incurables, Hospital for Infants and Asylum for Women and Children, Infants' Home, etc.
- (ii.) Victoria. Special hospitals, not included in the above tabulation, comprise the Women's Hospital, with infirmary and midwifery departments, the Children's Hospital, the Hospital for Women and Children, two Consumptive Sanatoria (one a Government institution), Inebriates' Institute, Convalescent homes, etc.
- (iii.) Queensland. There are four lying-in and two children's hospitals in Queensland, and a sanatorium; also two lock hospitals, established under the provisions of the Contagious Diseases Act of 1868.
- (iv.) South Australia. In connection with the leading general hospital in the metropolis, there is a consumptive home and infectious diseases block; there are also a children's hospital, two lying-in homes, sanatorium, convalescent home, home for incurables, etc.
- (v.) Western Australia. The leading general hospitals are Government establishments. There is a lying-in establishment in connection with the metropolitan women's home, and in other places, a home for the dying and incurable, homes and rests for sailors, strangers, etc.
- (vi.) Tasmania. Included in the Tasmanian general hospitals are two which pay particular regard to "special cases"; these are the hospital for contagious diseases (a

Government institution) and the convalescent home. Other important institutions of a general nature are the New Town charitable establishment, and the invalid depôt.

3. Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.—A marked increase has taken place in the amount of aid bestowed upon the aged. Two elements, each of them independent of the growth of population, have influenced this increase. One is, that the general age of the community has advanced,—the large flow of immigration of fifty and sixty years ago having been mostly of persons in the prime of life; the other is the increased regard paid in all British communities to the well-being of the helpless. The result in Australia has been that numerous establishments have been founded for the housing and protection of such as are no longer able to care for themselves. The institutions are supported by Government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, charity performances, bequests, etc., and in many cases relatives of indigent and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

The impossibility of an entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid, is especially marked in the case of benevolent institutions, since the conditions under which they have been established in the different centres in the Commonwealth have caused divergence in their development and in the classes of cases treated by them. For example, in Western Australia the Home for Destitute Women includes a maternity ward, for which the statistics are not separately kept. Since the predominating function of the Institution is aid to the destitute, it has been included among benevolent asylums. In Victoria, nine of the hospitals are also Benevolent asylums, and they are included wholly under the former. In South Australia, the Destitute Asylum includes lying-in and children's departments.

Particul	ars.		N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwlth.
Revenue— Government aid Municipal aid Public subs., le Fees Other		 etc 	£ 84,374 2,957 7,456	£ 30,100 1,289 11,114 2,527 3,674	£ 35,108  680  377	£ 17,964	£ 22,288 645	£ 4,719  85 	£ 194,553 1,289 14,836 3,042 12,475
Total			94,787	48,704	36,165	18,801	22,933	4,805	226,195
Expenditure— Buildings Maintenance Other	 	 	3,076 88,872 2,012	27,693 35,913 259	51 35,581 119	151 18,650 	21,632 1,301	36 4,255 514	31,007 204,903 4,205
Total			93,960	63,865	35,751	18,801	22,933	4,805	240,115

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1909.

- (i.) Government Asylums for the Infirm, New South Wales. There are six of these institutions in New South Wales, with something over 4000 beds, generally nearly all in use. The average number resident in 1909 was 3606. Deaths in 1909 numbered 875, and the expenditure amounted to £73,181.
- (ii.) Benevolent Asylums, Victoria. Besides the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. The daily average number indoors was 2421 for 1908-9, with 1780 distinct cases of outdoor relief. Deaths numbered 448. The total expenditure was £63,865, and receipts £48,704—£30,100 from Government and £18,604 from other sources.
- (iii.) Benevolent Asylums, Queensland. There are four institutions in Queensland, with 1259 beds. The total number in the asylums during 1909 was 1681, with a daily average of 1144. Deaths numbered 157. Expenditure amounted to £20,997, and receipts to £21,412, of which £20,355 was Government aid.

- (iv.) Destitute Asylum, Adelaide. Outside of hospitals and lunatic asylums the destitute of South Australia are dealt with and relieved at the Destitute Asylum, Adelaide. The institution includes lying-in and children's departments. In the asylum the average number of inmates in 1908-9 was 401. There were seventy-eight deaths during the year. Expenditure totalled £6631. In addition, £12,394 was dispensed through the institution for outdoor relief of the destitute in both metropolitan and rural districts.
- (v.) Homes for the Destitute, Western Australia. There are four of these homes in Western Australia supported by public funds. Attached to the Perth Women's Home is a lying in department. Outdoor relief to the poor and aged is given, the amount expended being included in expenditure in the above table. More than sixteen hundred cases were dealt with during 1908, with a daily average of 656. There were ninety-eight deaths.
- (vi.) Charitable Establishments, Tasmania. There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. Beds numbered 449 in 1909. The total number of persons treated was 690, of whom 112 died. The daily average resident was 329. Total expenditure was £5232, receipts amounting to the same sum, of which £4787 was contributed by the State.
- 4. Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.—The organisation of charitable effort varies greatly in regard to orphans and waifs. In many institutions shelter and some form of industrial training is offered to destitute children of all classes, whether orphans or not, while some of those styled orphanages do not confine their relief to orphans strictly so called. The figures in the next table are those for institutions where, it is believed, the principal effort is on behalf of those who are really orphans:—

Particulars.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Number of institutions		.38	38	38	42
Admissions	. 1,286	1,333	1,465	1,393	1,613
Total number of inmates during year	. 4,887	4,868	5,081	4,078	5,150
Deaths	. 17	15	17	19	14
Expenditure	. 60,564	61,098	62,439	65,154	61,088

ORPHANAGES IN COMMONWEALTH, 1905 to 1909.

(i.) New South Wales. The care of destitute and neglected children is entrusted to the State Children's Relief Board, whose officers are charged with a strict supervision regarding the welfare of the children and the relation to them by those to whom they are boarded out. Useful trades and profitable occupations are taught, and many of the children become useful members of society. The number of children under the board's supervision in 1909-10 was 4890. The board's expenditure in 1909-10 was £88,845, or £20 5s. per child.

There are also thirteen orphanages, with about 800 persons under care. Deaths are but one or two annually, and the yearly expenditure fluctuates between £7300 and £10,000.

New South Wales has three reformatory institutions—the Carpenterian State Reformatory, and the "Sobraon" State Training Ship for boys, the enrolment for 1909 being 101 and 357 respectively; and the Girl's State Industrial School, where for the same year the enrolment was 135.

The Training Ship has attained very satisfactory results. In forty years more than 5000 boys have been dealt with, and the records shew that 98 per cent. of these have developed into good citizens. Attached to the "Sobraon" is the steam and sailing schooner "Dart;" where the boys are taught seamanship. The boys subjected to a course of training are, at the expiration of their term, apprenticed to approved persons. To the Carpenterian Reformatory are sent boys who have been convicted in the courts, whom it is desired to keep apart from other prisoners, and who are taught useful trades.

(ii.) Victoria. There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1564 beds. The total number under care in 1909 was over 2000. Average annual admissions are about 500. Deaths numbered four in 1909. The annual expenditure is about £23,000.

At the end of 1909 there were three industrial and eleven reformatory schools in the State. Of these, one industrial and one reformatory school are wholly controlled by the Government, being used merely as receiving and distributing depôts. The children are sent thence to foster homes, situations or other institutions dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management, receiving an allowance for State wards. Many of the reformatory children are placed with friends or licensed out. On 31st December, 1909, the wards of the State numbered 6221—comprising 6007 neglected and 214 reformatory children. There were also 42 children free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The total expenditure for 1909 was £79,182, of which £76,457 was borne by the Government.

A training ship has been purchased and equipped. The beneficial results of the system experienced in New South Wales are expected to follow in Victoria.

(iii.) Queensland. There are seven orphanages in Queensland with over 1000 beds. The number under care is about 1500, deaths averaging six per annum. The expenditure in 1909 was £28,637.

There are also six industrial and reformatory schools. The total number of children under State control at the end of 1909 was 2627. The gross cost was £27,881 of which £25,546 was borne by the Government.

- (iv.) South Australia. The State Children's Department exercises a supervision over the probationary and industrial schools, the reformatories, and the Methodist Home. The total number of admissions into these institutions in 1908-9 was 175. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1909, was 180, in addition to which 1203 were placed out, or had been adopted or apprenticed. There were four deaths of children in industrial schools, and seven of those placed out and in other institutions. The number of children under State control on 30th June, 1909, was 1511. The expenditure for 1908-9 was £20,305 in gross, of which the Government aid was £18,298.
- (v.) Western Australia. In Western Australia there were, in 1908, eight orphanages (including industrial orphanage schools). The admissions during the year were 152, and the number in institutions on 31st December was 462. There were three deaths during the year. The State expenditure was £10,512.

In the Government Industrial School there were, at the end of 1908, 23 inmates, 180 having been admitted during the year. Five deaths occurred. At the end of 1909 655 children were under State control. The net cost to the State was £11,014, parents' contributions amounting to £502.

(vi.) Tasmania. There were three admissions to the orphanage in 1908 and fortythree inmates during the year. No deaths occurred. Expenditure amounted to £526. There are three industrial schools under benevolent institutions in the State. Admissions in 1908 numbered seventeen, and total inmates during the year 106. One death occurred. The expenditure was £2387.

Under the boarding-out system an annual average of 140 children are placed out at an annual average expenditure of £1610. The total number of children under State control at the end of 1909 was 285, the gross cost to the State of children's relief being £2788, of which £274 represents parents' contributions.

The following table summarises the number of neglected children under State Departments. In New South Wales a number of children are boarded out with their own mothers. The inclusion of these would make the total number of children in that State 8487.

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—TRANSACTIONS OF STATE DEPART-MENTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH (EXCLUSIVE OF TASMANIA), 1909.

Particulars.	N.S.W.*	Vict.	Qld.	S.A.t	W.A.	Tas.	Cwlth.
Number of Children under State con- control at end of year— Males Females	1 001	3,248 2,973	1,296 1,331	808 703	385 270	182 103	8,458 7,231
Total	4,390	6,221	2,627	1,511	655	285	15,689
Gross cost to State of children's relief Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc.	£ 93,543 3,419	£ 79,182 2,725	£ 27,881 2,335	£ 20,305 2,007	£ 11,014 502	£ 2,788 274	£ 234,713 11,262
Net cost	90,124	76,457	25,546	18,298	10,512	2,514	223,451

<sup>\*</sup> For year ended 5th April following. 
† For year ended 30th June following.

5. Lepers.—Lazarets for the treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Stradbroke Island, near Brisbane, and Dayman Island, Torres Straits); and the Northern Territory of South Australia (Mud Island). Quarantine and isolation stations have also been used for the segregation of patients. A great deal of information concerning the beginning and progress of leprosy in Australia has been collected and published by Dr. J. Ashburton Thompson, Chief Government Medical Officer and President of the Board of Health, New South Wales, from whose reports the following table has been compiled:—

CASES OF LEPROSY RECORDED IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1855 to 1908.

State.	`	1855 to 1904.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	Total.
New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania		116 *26 †136 36 4	8 17 —	9 1 19 1 —	7 14 — 1	4 21 1 —	2  23  3	146 *27 †230 38 7
Total	•••	*†318	25	30	22	26	28	*†449

<sup>\*</sup> In addition, some Chinese.

<sup>†</sup> In addition, many Kanakas.

6. Hospitals for the Insane.—The method of compiling insanity statistics has been fairly uniform throughout the States, but the various methods of observing the early stages of the development of insanity introduce an element of uncertainty which considerably reduces the value of comparison. In the summary given below licensed houses (except as regards expenditure) are included for New South Wales throughout, and the number in Victoria is included in 1907, 1908, and 1909, but the figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards in gaols:—

	1905.	1906.	1907.*	1908.*	1909.*				
Number of in Number of be Admissions Total number Discharged as Deaths Expenditure	ds  under trea		   or impro 		16,462 1,183 966	27 13,507 2,839 16,803 1,258 1,003 404,354	30† 13,238 2,583 17,000 1,216 1,018 500,168	30† 14,317 2,638 17,373 1,159 1,071 511,468	31† 14,546 2,740 17,915 1,200 1,046 514,531

<sup>\*</sup> Exclusive of receiving wards at two general hospitals, previously included. † Includes five licensed houses for insane in Victoria.

The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, is gradually rising. In the next table the number of insane under official care in Australia is given, and in the table following the proportion of insane to population.

The number of insane persons in institutions in Australia at the end of each of the past five years was as follows:—

INSANE PERSONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1905 to 1909.

State.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Victoria	 5,193 4,768 1,938 983 494 475	5,422 4,876 2,029 994 546 482	5,509 4,969 2,069 1,019 630 502	5,673 5,014 2,184 1,051 707 507	5,902 5,097 2,227 1,051 782 506
Commonwealth.	 13,851	14,349	14,698	15,136	15,565

For the period embraced in the tables Victoria shews the highest rate of insanity, roughly one in 250 persons. It is stated that this is chiefly owing to the proportionately greater number of old persons in that State. On the other hand, in Western Australia, where the population is much younger, a considerably lower insanity rate has prevailed, being about one in 500 in 1905 and 1906, about one in 400 in 1907 and 1908, and about one in 350 in 1909.

State.	1	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	
	P	ER 10	000 OF T	HE POPUL	ATION.		·
New South Wales			3.49	3.55	3.51	3.56	3.64
Victoria	•••		3.91	3.96	3.98	3.94	3.91
Queensland	•••	,	3.67	3.79	3.82	3.96	3.89
South Australia	•••		2.60	2.59	2.59	2.58	2.53
Western Australia	•••		1.94	2.08	2.41	2.65	2.86
Tasmania	•••		2.62	2.62	2.73	2.73	2.70
Commonwealth			3.42	3.48	3.50	3.54	3.56

PROPORTION OF INSANE, COMMONWEALTH, 1905 to 1909.

Increase in the number of recorded cases of insanity does not necessarily imply an actual increase, and does not here imply an equivalent increase. Consequent upon the development of a more rational attitude to the treatment of mental cases there is growing up a greater willingness to submit necessary cases to treatment at an earlier stage than formerly. It is important to bear this in mind, because the small progressive increase in the preceding table is probably to be attributed largely, if not solely, to this circumstance. The increase in expenditure is another evidence of the greater care bestowed on the insane.

The leading features in regard to institutions for the care of the insane are given below for 1909:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION, COMMONWEALTH, 1909.

Particula	rs.		N.S.W.	Vict.*	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwlth.
Number of Institu Government Private	itions—		7 3	· 5†	3	1	2 1		22 9†
Total	•••		10	13	3	1	3	1	31
Medical Staff— Males Females		:::	16 1	18	5	2		ŧ	443 18
Total			17	18	5	2	3	:	458
Nursing Staff & A Males Females	ttendant  	is—	435 322	416 412	121 76	62 51	72 32	ŧ	1,106\$ 893\$
Total			<b>7</b> 57	828	197	113	104	1	1,999\$
Accommodation— No. of dormite Capacity in cu No. of beds Cubic feet to e	ories ibic feet 		5,277 ( ¶600\$	1,327 3,357,083 4,699 } 714	727 1,295,319 2,197 590	1,115 :	26 512,383 725 707	369 1,434,326 533 2,691	14,546 ‡

<sup>\*</sup>Exclusive of Receiving House, Royal Park, and of the Receiving Wards at Bendigo and Geelong hospitals. †There are five private licensed houses in Victoria, in which there were 111 cases at end of 1909. Other figures for these private asylums are not available. ‡Information not available. § Exclusive of Tasmania. Figures for 1907. ¶ Government hospitals only. § Ordinary dormitory.

### HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1909.

Particulars.				N.S.W. V	Vic.* Q'ld.		S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwlth	
No. of distinct	persons	treated	during	year							
Males Females			•••		4,004 2,739	3,027 2,768	1,600 951	729 564	668 261	323 281	10,351 7,564
Total					6,743	5,795	2,551	1,293	929	604	17,915
Admissions & r		niona d	nuina u					·	[		
Males	6-9XIII12		mring y	 GWI —	648	455	245	132	156	35	1,671
Females	•••				422	310	122	110	69	36	1,069
Total					1,070	765	367	242	225	71	2,740
Discharges-Re	covered										Í
Males		•			216	138	91	1	38	12	496
Females	•••	•••	•••	•••	186	100	50		23	8	367
	•						ļ. <del></del>		J,		
Total	•••	•••	•••	•••	402	238	141	1	61	20	863
Relieved and	unreliev	ed:						[ <del></del>			
Males Females	•••	•••	•••	•••	47 40	36 35	37 17	71 71	10 5	2 11	203 179
		•••	•••		₩.			71	5		119
Total					87	71	54	142	15	13	382
Absconders :				- 1							
Males		•••			2	17		2	3		24
Females	•••	•••				1				•••	1
Total			•••		2	18		2	3		25
Deaths:				1		<del>-</del>					
Males			•••		229	224	89	58	40	15	655
Females	•••	•••	•••		121	147	40	39	27	· 17	391
Total					350	371	129	97	67	32	1,046
Inmates at end	of year:			ľ							
Males Females	•••	•••	•••		3,510 2,392	2,612 2,485	1,383 844	597 454	579 203	261 245	8,942 6,623
remaies	•••	•••	•••		2,392	2,465		404		245	0,023
Total					5,902	5,097	2,227	1,051	782	506	15,565
Average daily n				1	0.000	0.000	1.070				0.700
Males Females		•••		:::	3,362 2,237	2,379 2,274	1,370 835	593 457	544 209	254 246	8,502 6,258
- Omaros	•••	•••	•••			-,413					
Total					5,599	4,653	2,205	1,050	753	500	14,760

<sup>\*</sup> Exclusive of inmates of the Receiving House, Royal Park, and of Receiving Wards attached to the hospitals at Bendigo and Geelong, and of five private licensed houses.

In some of the States it is the practice to allow persons well advanced towards recovery to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are nevertheless under supervision of the asylum authorities and are kept on the books. These patients are shewn in the above table as inmates. In nearly every case absconders are retaken. They are shewn above as readmitted.

The revenue of Government asylums is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the States amounts to about 88 per cent.

Particulars.		N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth
Revenue— Fees of patients Other		£ 29,765 1,617	£ 22,176 	£ 6,623 1,598	£ 6,515 	£ 3,541 781	£ 4,580 233	£ 73,200 4,229
_ Total	•••	31,382	22,176	8,221	6,515	4,322	4,813	77,429
Expenditure— Salaries Maintenance Other		69,419 *98,532 †15,487	163,117 \$41,314	49,334 330	{ 12,420 16,877 	14,577 13,875 34	} 14,041 §5,174	452,192 62,339
Total		183.438	204.431	49,664	29,297	28,486	19.215	514.531

# HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE (GOVERNMENT ONLY), REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1909.

(i.) New South Wales. The average length of residence in the hospitals of persons who died during the year was 4 years 8 months for males and 5 years 9 months for females; and that of persons who were discharged during the year was 1 year 2 months for males and 1 year 7 months for females.

There are also two State reception houses, where suspected persons are confined for observation, being subsequently either discharged or transferred to lunatic asylums. In two of the gaols observation wards have been instituted, with similar functions.

(ii.) Victoria. The average residence in the hospitals of those who died was 6 years 11 months for males, and 9 years 9 months for females; that of those discharged, 1 year 1 month for males, and 1 year 6 months for females.

There are also lunacy wards in two of the general hospitals. On 24th September, 1907, a State receiving house was opened, where persons are placed for observation, and subsequently discharged or transferred to asylums.

(iii.) Queensland. The average residence in the institutions of those who died was 6 years 1 month for males and 9 years 4 months for females; and for those who were discharged, 1 year 2 months for males and 2 years 1 month for females.

There are also three reception houses for insane, which act as depôts to which patients are sent to see whether their mental illness is of a merely temporary character, readily to be relieved, or is of such a nature as to need further treatment at the State asylums.

- (iv.) South Australia. The average residence of those who died was 7 years for males and 6 years 9 months for females; of those discharged, 10 months for males and 8 months for females.
- (v.) Western Australia. The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged 3 years 9 months for males and 2 years 3 months for females; of those who were discharged, 1 year 1 month for males and 10 months for females.

Particulars of the New Norfolk Asylum, Tasmania, are not available for 1909.

(vi.) Causes of Insanity. The proportion of causes of insanity to the total of ascertained causes in Australia in 1907, 1908, and 1909 shows that hereditary influences have been the chief factor, one-fifth of the total ascertained causes coming under this head. Domestic troubles, adverse circumstances, etc., have also been a fruitful source. About one case in eight was due to intemperance in drink.

Lunacy patients only. † Including £5869 expenses of Government hospital at Morisset. Buildings and repairs. \$ Including £222 for buildings.

# PROPORTION OF ASCERTAINED CAUSES OF INSANITY, COMMONWEALTH, 1907, 1908, and 1909.

Cau	ses.		1907.	1908.	1909.			
-					;	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Domestic trouble, adverse circu	ımsta	nces, n	iental a	nxiety	• • • •	14.7	14.5	11.5
Intemperance in drink		•••				13.7	12.9	10.1
Hereditary influence, ascerta	ined	: con	genital	influ	ence.			
		•••	-			00.0	18.8	15.0
Pregnancy, lactation, parturitie	on an	d puerr	eral sta	ite, ut	erine	ŀ		
and ovarian disorders, pub							6.8	6.4
Previous attacks	,					11.0	13.5	12.0
Accident, including sunstroke						4.3	4.0	3.0
Old age						7.7	8.0	9.7
	•••			•••	٠	20.1	21.5	32.3;
•						ĺ		
All ascertained causes		2,6.4			•••	100.0	100.0	100.0
		•					١.,	.0.1

- 7. Treatment of Inebriates.—The treatment of inebriates is referred to in the section dealing with Public Justice hereinbefore. (See page 926.)
- 8. Protection of Aborigines.—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where the blacks are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic in habit of life, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come under the notice of the boards. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The average annual expenditure on maintenance, etc., for the last four years was—New South Wales, £14,340; Victoria, £4262; Queensland, £10,160; South Australia, £17,037; Western Australia, £17,400; Commonwealth, £63,199.
- 9. Other Charitable Institutions.—Owing to variety of name and function of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed results. The aid given in kind—food, clothing, tools of trade, etc.—is considerable, whilst the shelter and treatment afforded ranges from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments ministering minor charity, to indoor treatment over long periods for those that exist for the relief of the aged and infirm. The institutions not so particularised include asylums for the deaf, dumb, and blind, maternity institutions and infant homes, homes for the destitute and aged poor, industrial colonies, night shelters, crèches, homes of hope, rescue homes, free kindergarten and ragged schools, auxiliary medical charities, free dispensaries, benevolent societies and nursing systems, charity organisation, ambulance and health societies, boys' brigades, humane and animals' protection societies, prisoners' aid associations, shipwreck relief societies, bush fires and mining accident relief funds.
- 10. State Expenditure on Charities.—The table below gives the amount expended by Government on charities. In some of the States amounts have been included for minor items, which in other States are charged to other heads. The figures are for financial years in New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland up to 1907, for calendar years in South Australia and Western Australia, and in Tasmania for the calendar year 1904, and financial years 1905-6 and 1906-7. The last three columns give the amounts in the calendar years 1907, 1908, and 1909.

#### STATE EXPENDITURE ON CHARITIES, 1904 to 1909.

State.	Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.	Amount in 1907.	Amount in 1908.	Amount in 1909.
N.S.W Victoria Queensland South Aust West. Australia Tasmania	1904-5 ., 1904 .,	£ 494,818 294,483 174,379 98,635 103,891 46,843	1905-6  1905 1905-6	£ 528,281 292,454 169,336 99,194 108,122 44,671	1906-7  1906- 1906-7	£ 493,605 304,151 193,721 101,023 112,376 48,911	£ 440,360 361,498 206,881 113,345 146,685 46,100	£ 481,887 383,086 216,144 88,752 175,839 47,537	£ 519,327 378,165 200,141 88,618 149,892 36,316

The average annual State expenditure for the first three years given was—New South Wales, £505,568; Victoria, £297,030; Queensland, £179,135; South Australia, £99,617; Western Australia, £108,130; Tasmania, £46,808; Commonwealth, £1,236,288. The total in 1907 was £1,314,869; in 1908, £1,393,245; and in 1909 £1,372,459.

11. Total Charitable Expenditure.—The expenditure in the Commonwealth in money on hospitals, charities, and all forms of relief publicly given, comprising the amounts furnished by Government and those raised by public subscription, etc., but excluding old-age pensions, is estimated at £1,700,000 for the year 1909.